

# The Hawaiian Star,

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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER

MONDAY.....AUGUST 14, 1905

## The Working Of The County Act

The difficulties which seemed to be so thick about County Government before County Government was inaugurated have not proven so serious as it was feared they would. New difficulties are constantly arising, but these will no doubt be dealt with as readily as others have been. In the County of Hawaii a very radical difference of opinion exists between the Board of Supervisors, or a majority of them, and the County Sheriff. Each claims the right of appointment, and the Board of Supervisors has made formal claim to its right by passing an ordinance declaring that police officers can only be appointed by it, and providing for commissions to be issued to its appointees by the County Clerk. In addition it will vote no money for the pay of policemen not appointed by it. The sheriff on the other hand claims the right of appointment, and has appointed a set of police for the County. It is obvious however that they cannot be paid unless the courts shall decide that the right of appointment is in the sheriff. The issue, it would seem is very clearly drawn, and it seems equally clear that the issue must soon be presented to the courts, though as yet, there is no information that it has been.

This seems the most serious difference that has arisen in any of the counties. The question of whether the County or the Territory shall pay for the maintenance of persons under arrest previous to trial is one that has arisen in every County. It seems not to have been looked at from the same point of view in each County, and the probabilities are that this question will eventually find its way to the courts for decision. As a matter of fact the decision can make little difference to the people. The tax-payers in any event will have to pay the bills. It is merely a question through which agency they will pay them. However, it is a question, that as long as there is a difference of opinion on it, the courts alone can decide. Each set of officials concerned must of necessity, follow the law as they or their attorneys construe it. If the people have a choice of agency through which they will pay it, they can, through the legislature, enact that choice into law, no matter what the courts may say the law now requires.

The matter of jurisdiction over the public highways is another matter in which there is difference of opinion. But in all these cases it will be observed that it is mere uncertainty as to what governmental agency of the people shall do particular things and be responsible for particular duties. As to most of them a modus vivendi can easily be arranged. As to all of them the courts can determine what the law directs, and if it is found that the people prefer a different agency than the one the law directs, that can easily be established. It is simply a case of amending the County law to meet our needs. Nor will Hawaii be the only place where County and municipal government acts are being constantly amended. They are being amended wherever they exist. The science of government is not an exact science, and the form of it is never final.

## A Severe Schoolmaster

The epidemic of yellow fever in New Orleans, and especially its severity, comes as a surprise to the public. The time was when New Orleans was expected to have a few cases of yellow fever every year, and an epidemic might occur at any time. But with the advance in sanitary science, the supposed advance in municipal government, in New Orleans, and above all, what has been accomplished in Havana had, in a way, prepared the American people to believe that yellow fever epidemics in New Orleans, or anywhere else in continental United States, were things of the past.

The breaking out of yellow fever, in New Orleans, therefore was a shock to this complacent feeling, a surprise to the public, and that the epidemic should reach the proportions it has, has thrown doubt and discredit in the minds of many on the supposed advance made in sanitary science, and particularly on the newest but generally accepted theories regarding yellow fever and mosquitoes.

The breaking out and virulence of the epidemic emphasizes the necessity, the absolute imperative of sound sanitary conditions, of that eternal vigilance which alone is the price of municipal good health. It emphasizes also the importance of dealing with the mosquito problem from the standpoint of health as well as from the standpoint of personal comfort. The time is coming when the propriety of prohibiting breeding places for mosquitoes will be just as thoroughly recognized as not only appropriate but necessary, as prohibiting open cesspools or other recognized menaces to health.

It is a slow process putting into customary practice the advances that are constantly being made in sanitary science, and it seems that the only really effective school for such instruction is an epidemic such as New Orleans is now suffering from.

Happy is that community which is receptive enough to wholesome instruction not to require such scourging.

## Hawaii a Mere Novice

If any one thinks that "loan sharks," "graft," "stuffed pay-rolls," "discounting of pay warrants," or any combination of them, is peculiar to Hawaii, or that we can pose as school masters in this field of knowledge, let him read the following from the Chicago Daily News, and have his civic pride taken down a notch or two. Studied carefully it would seem as though we were only in the primary department:

"Complicity with 'loan sharks' in exacting 10 per cent or more of the \$43,680 of the June pay rolls for special-strike deputy sheriffs is a new charge heaped upon the sheriff's office in addition to the charge that the pay rolls have been padded; that some deputies on the roll have not done service and that the pay roll has been used for political purposes. Sheriff Barrett and Chief Deputy Peters have been summoned to appear before the county board finance committee and explain, late this afternoon. A rigid investigation will follow.

"According to the statement of a deputy sheriff, who is afraid he will be maltreated if his name is used, the men who are unable to obtain their June pay through the proper channel, have been made the dupes of deputy sheriffs, who put them through a course of formalities, winding up at one of two 'official loan sharks' concerns, where the shearing is completed. An average of \$18 is said to have been extorted from the men who needed their money and let it be known at the sheriff's office, it is charged.

"The two loan institutions to which men were not only directed but escorted by certain regular deputy sheriffs are run by a Martha Mathieson and D. O'Sullivan at 94 and 86 LaSalle streets. It also was

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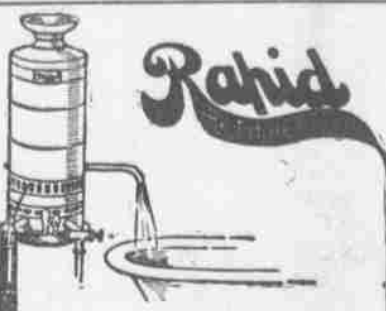
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asserted that the county comptroller had curtly informed men who wished to make assignments of wages under the new law that the comptroller's office would pay no attention to assignments made to others than O'Sullivan or Miss Mathieson. Today Deputy Comptroller James L. Monaghan said that the law provided that the office accept assignments to anybody properly executed. According to the deputy, who paid \$28 to cash his voucher for \$78, he was sent to the comptroller's office by the sheriff before he got the assignment made out and was told then that there were only two "official" loaners. It is possible that the official who made the statement practiced deception and if assignments from others came in they would be filed.

"Chairman Walker of the county board committee, which met to take up the pay roll today, said that a searching investigation of all charges would be made. He said that he understood a large part of the payment would be made on assignments."

The Mayor of Atlantic City has issued an order prohibiting bathing suits of cream color as being, as the mayor expressed it "too alliterative." The same order also provides that bathing suits at that famous bathing resort must be of "medium" length.

As according to the latest figures some of the garbage department employees were allowed too many Sundays and some of them too few, is there any way of equalizing this until we arrive at the state where every day will be Sunday?

The Maui News says that G. P. Wilder has succeeded in grafting the Mangosteen on the Kamaui, a hardier tree.

If the garbage men are going to have their salaries "docked" for Sundays and holidays why should not the clerks and heads of departments have the same treatment?

There was no graft. Neither were there seven Sundays' credits. According to C. M. White's report about 35 garbage and excavator laborers who are working for the Territory and earning about \$30 a month each, got an

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average of \$2.50 for Sunday credits which the Territory might have saved. Mr. White says that this is "indeed unfortunate." Meanwhile the monthly salaries of Mr. White and of all the other employees of the public works department except these poorest paid ones are running on with credits included for every Sunday that comes.

Everyone can find pleasure in the report of C. M. White. It suits all sides and factions—in spots. It reminds one of the happy chorus of the Mikado:  
"I am right,  
And you are right,  
And he is right  
And all is right as right can be."

When a man stands at the marriage altar he gets as nervous as he does when watching the bulletins of a baseball game.

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